

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An internal combustion engine is operated with a predetermined fixed A/F ratio in an operating range where the amount of intake air is not larger than a predetermined value but, in an operating range where the amount of intake air is larger than the predetermined value, the internal engine is operated with a variable lean A/F ratio which increases from the fixed A/F ratio as the amount of intake air increases. To achieve this, in a throttle valve (7a) whose opening is controlled based on a signal from an accelerator pedal position sensor (17), control is performed so that the correspondence ratio between the accelerator pedal position and the throttle valve opening increases as the A/F ratio increases. In the operating range where the engine is operated with a variable lean A/F ratio, the amount of intake air is increased by using a turbocharger (2). Then, fuel atomization is promoted by controlling the intake air cooling effect of an intercooler (6) so that the temperature of the intake air rises as the A/F ratio increases.